

Flash Crash

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Stock Market Endures Worst Day In 18 Months

A screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015. The DJIA slid 358 points, 2.1 percent, to 16,990. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

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Tensions soar in Korea as shells launched over DMZ

ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) —

South Korea fired dozens of shells Thursday at North Korea after claiming the North lobbed a single rocket at a South Korean town broadcasting anti-North Korean propaganda near the world's most heavily armed border. The North denied it fired any shots and warned of retaliation for what it called a serious provocation.

Officials in Seoul said the North fired the rocket across the Demilitarized Zone to back up an earlier threat to attack South Korean border loudspeakers that, after a lull of 11 years, have started broadcasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda. But the Supreme Headquarters of the Korean People's Army issued a statement later Thursday denying it had launched any shots at the South.

"Using the pretext that our forces fired one shell to the south, which is not true, it made reckless moves by firing 36 shells at our military posts," said the statement, published in Korean by the North's state media. It said the shells landed near four military posts, but caused no injuries.

"This reckless shelling incident is a serious military

provocation to our sacred territory and military posts which is intolerable," it said. The incident comes amid rising tensions between the rival Koreas.

South Korea and the United States are holding annual military drills that the North has long said are a rehearsal for the invasion of their country and Seoul recently restarted the propaganda broadcasts because it claims the North planted land mines on the South Korean side of the DMZ that maimed two South Korean soldiers earlier this month. North Korea has denied that claim as well.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said in a statement that its artillery shells landed at the site where North Korea had fired its rocket. There were no other details from the military.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye convened an emergency National Security Council meeting and ordered South Korea's military to "resolutely" deal with any provocation by North Korea. North Korea, meanwhile, convened an enlarged emergency meeting of the central military commission of its ruling party.

North Korea didn't respond militarily to South Ko-

rea's artillery barrage, but warned in a message it will take further military action



South Korean army soldiers aim their weapons during an anti-terror drill as part of Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, at Sadang Subway Station in Seoul, South Korea. U.S. and South Korean forces launched their annual joint military exercises this week, entitled Ulchi Freedom Guardian, for a 12-day run to prepare for a possible North Korea attack. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

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within 48 hours if South Korea doesn't pull down the loudspeakers, according to South Korea's Defense Ministry.

North Korea, which has also restarted its own propaganda broadcasts, is extremely sensitive to any criticism of the government run by leader Kim Jong Un, whose family has ruled since the North was founded in 1948.

It has said the broadcasts are tantamount to an act of war.

In Washington, State Department spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. was concerned by the firing of a projectile into South Korea from the North and was closely monitoring the situation.

"These kinds of provocative actions only heighten tensions and we call on Pyongyang to refrain from actions and rhetoric that

threaten regional peace and security," Kirby said, reiterating the U.S. commitment to its security alliance with South Korea.

About 80 residents in the town where South Korean officials say the shell fell, Yeoncheon, were evacuated to underground bunkers, and authorities urged other residents to evacuate, a Yeoncheon official said, requesting anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media. In the nearby border city of Paju, residents were asked to stay home. On Ganghwa Island, residents in villages near a site where South Korea operates one of its loudspeakers were also evacuated, according to island officials. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that a total of about 2,000 residents along the border were evacuated. □



Wildfires wreak havoc in drought-choked Western states

The Associated Press

Wildfires rampaged across the drought-choked West on Thursday as authorities scrambled for resources to beat back the flames.

The blazes took a deadly turn in Washington state, where three firefighters were killed and four more injured.

A look at large wildfires burning in several Western states:

WASHINGTON

Authorities say three firefighters died after their vehicle crashed and was apparently caught by a "hell-storm" of flames as they battled a blaze in Washington state. Four other firefighters were injured near Twisp.

The news came after officials urged people in the popular outdoor-recreation centers of Twisp and Wintrop, in the scenic Methow River valley about 115 miles (185 kilometers) northeast of Seattle, to evacuate.

Firefighters on several fronts were fighting against wildfires advancing on towns in the north-central part of the state.

A larger group of fires burning to the east covered about 50 square miles (129.5 square kilometers) and prompted the evacuation of Conconully, home to about 200 people — with further urgent evacuation orders issued Wednesday night for an area south of Conconully to the Omak



A wildfire burns behind a home on Twisp River Road, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015 in Twisp, Wash. Authorities on Wednesday afternoon urged people in the north-central Washington town to evacuate because of a fast-moving wildfire.
(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

town line.

Authorities warned that more high winds Thursday could make conditions very challenging. The National Weather Service issued a red flag warning for the eastern portion of the state until 5 p.m. Friday. Officials said temperatures will climb above 90 degrees and relative humidity will drop as low as 14 percent.

CALIFORNIA

There were 15 wildfires burning in California, with more than 11,000 firefighters on the front lines as crews contend with abnormally high temperatures for the season and drought-stressed fuels that haven't burned in 30 years.

Among the blazes is a fast-

moving grass fire that has scorched nearly 4 square miles of dry brush near Livermore. At least one unoccupied home was destroyed in the rural area Wednesday.

The Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area, a popular motorbike terrain park, was evacuated after the flames were reported Wednesday afternoon. The fire is about 25 percent contained.

A blaze burning for nearly three weeks on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada surged in size in a recreation area outside Kings Canyon National Park where more than 2,500 campers, hikers, employees and residents have been evacuated this week. It has scorched 50

square miles.

OREGON

High winds forecast for an area of eastern Oregon where a wildfire has destroyed three dozen homes have prompted more evacuation orders, officials said Thursday.

Red flag warnings concerning winds that could cause rapid spread of wildfires were posted across central Oregon and into eastern Washington, as the forecast called for a dry cold front with winds gusting to 40 mph from the Cascade crest to the east.

Wind and fire potential were expected to decrease across most of the region during the weekend. After burning for a week,

the fire 150 miles east of Portland was 10 percent contained at 85 square miles, with no date in sight for full containment. Much of the burning has been in Malheur National Forest.

Authorities dispatched more than 250 new people to fight the blaze, increasing personnel to more than 900.

With so many blazes burning across the West, the fire slid from the top of the national wildfire priorities list.

IDAHO

Firefighters battling blazes in Idaho braced for tough conditions Thursday with temperatures expected in the 90s along with winds of 25 mph and low humidity.

Nearly 700 firefighters supported by 39 fire engines and aircraft continue to work on a group of fires near Kamiah in northern Idaho that has destroyed 42 homes. But containment is only 30 percent on the fires that have scorched 61 square miles.

In west-central Idaho, federal officials closed a portion of the Payette National Forest due to a 10-square-mile fire burning about 20 miles northwest of McCall. Local authorities have lifted evacuation notices along the U.S. Highway 95 corridor.

Fire officials say fire lines were bolstered overnight but list the fire as having no containment due to heavy fuel loads in the area and expected strong winds. □



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St. Louis police chief defends fatal shooting by officers

JIM SUHR
 JIM SALTER
 Associated Press
 ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis police chief on Thursday unapologetically de-

fended the fatal shooting of a black 18-year-old who was killed by two white officers in a confrontation that drew protesters and unrest back to the streets. Protesters pledged to stand firm. Said the director of a group called the Organization for Black Struggle: "We will not go away."

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Thursday. "But don't let social media and innuendo drive what you believe to be true. You have to let the facts speak." Mayor Francis Slay pledged an "independent and transparent" investigation of the shooting but stood behind police. "The police were in this neighborhood doing their job," Slay said at a meeting with the St. Louis Clergy Coalition, a group of black

ministers. The meeting was at a church about a block from the shooting site. The police chief and mayor said protesters should have their voices heard, but they differentiated between those who gather to protest and others who create mischief. "We have to be mindful of the fact that there are criminals who were at the protest as cover for their activity," Slay said. □



Police in riot gear stand guard as protesters gather, in St. Louis. A black 18-year-old fleeing from officers serving a search warrant at a home in a crime-troubled section of St. Louis was fatally shot Wednesday by police after he pointed a gun at them, the city's police chief said. (Laurie Skrivan/St. Louis Post-Dispatch via AP)

fended the fatal shooting of a black 18-year-old who was killed by two white officers in a confrontation that drew protesters and unrest back to the streets. Protesters pledged to stand firm. Said the director of a group called the Organization for Black Struggle: "We will not go away." Mansur Ball-Bey, who police said had a handgun, was shot as officers raided a home in a violence-plagued part of north St. Louis. Within an hour of Wednesday's shooting, more than 100 people converged on the scene, taunting officers and decrying the use of deadly force. A vacant building and at least one car were torched, police said. Of-

control tactics were justified because officers were being hit with bottles and bricks and protesters refused to clear out of the roadway. The scene unfolded less than two weeks after violence marred the anniversary of the day Michael Brown was fatally wounded by a white officer in nearby Ferguson. His death launched the national Black Lives Matter movement. The latest shooting happened while officers were serving a search warrant. They encountered Ball-Bey and another suspect running from the home, police said. Ball-Bey turned and pointed a handgun at the officers, who shot him, authorities said. He died at the

Sam Dotson said. Some protesters questioned the police claim that the suspect was armed. Distrust of police accounts has been common since Brown's death. On the night of Brown's anniversary, 18-year-old Tyrone Harris Jr. was wounded by plainclothes officers in Ferguson when he allegedly first fired at them. His father labeled that account "a bunch of lies" and insisted his son was unarmed. Later, police released surveillance video recorded moments before the shooting that appeared to show the younger Harris pulling a handgun from his waistband and running in the direction of the officers. "I understand people's skepticism," Dotson said

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Carter 'at ease' and ready for radiation treatment on cancer



Former President Jimmy Carter greets Carter Center members before a press conference to discuss his cancer diagnosis in Atlanta on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015. Carter announced Thursday that his cancer is on four small spots on his brain and he will immediately begin radiation treatment, saying he is "at ease with whatever comes."

(AP Photo/Phil Skinner)

KATHLEEN FOODY
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — With a broad smile and an upbeat attitude, former President Jimmy Carter told the world Thursday that he has cancer in his brain, and feels "perfectly at ease with whatever comes." Carter said doctors had removed melanoma from his liver, but found four small tumors in his brain. Later

on Thursday, he had the first of four targeted radiation treatments. He also will receive more injections of a newly approved drug to help his immune system seek out and destroy the cancer cells wherever else they may appear. Carter, the nation's 39th president, served in submarines in the Navy and spent years as a peanut farmer before running for office,

becoming a state senator and Georgia governor. His "plainspoken" nature helped Democrats retake the White House in 1976 in the wake of President Richard Nixon's impeachment. Wearing blue jeans and a blazer, Carter spoke with good humor and unsparing honesty, revealing that he had kept suspicions of cancer from his wife, Rosalynn, for weeks until the diagno-

sis was confirmed in June. "Now I feel it's in the hands of God, whom I worship, and I'll be prepared for anything that comes," he said. Carter's team of doctors at Emory Health Care includes Dr. Walter Curran Jr., who runs Emory's Winship Cancer Institute. Treatments for melanoma have improved tremendously recently, and Carter's prospects are good even at the age of 90, Curran said. But he cautioned against the idea that Carter can be "cured." "We're not looking for a cure in patients who have a disease like melanoma that has spread," Curran said. "The goal is control and to have a good qual-

ity of life." Doctors told Carter they had completely removed cancer from his liver during surgery on Aug. 3, but an MRI exam that same afternoon showed the spots on his brain. Carter said he went home that night thinking he had only a few weeks to live, but found himself feeling "surprisingly at ease." The former president didn't discuss his long-term prognosis, but said he will cut back dramatically on his humanitarian work while following the orders of a team that includes the world's best "cancer-treaters." His treatment regimen will include three more sessions three weeks apart. □

Obama Iran deal gains Democrat backing heading toward the vote

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's nuclear deal with Iran is picking up crucial support from swing-state Senate Democrats despite Republican opposition heightened by revelations of a secret side-agreement between Iran and the U.N. agency that inspects nuclear facilities. On Thursday, Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill became the latest to declare her backing, saying in a statement: "This deal isn't perfect and no one trusts Iran, but it has become clear to me that the world is united behind this agreement with the exception of the government of Israel." McCaskill's announcement followed a similar declaration a day earlier from Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly, who said: "I am willing to give this agreement the opportunity to succeed." Their support brings to 26 the number of Senate Democrats who've come out in favor of the agreement aimed at dismantling Iran's nuclear program in exchange for billions in sanctions relief. Supporters now include 10 of the 12 members on the Demo-

cratic side of the Senate Armed Services Committee. With majority Republicans unanimously opposed, Obama needs 34 Senate Democrats to sustain his veto of a resolution disapproving the deal. The disapproval measure may pass next month. With only two Senate Democrats opposed so far that number is increasingly looking within reach, and supporters could even potentially secure the 41 votes that would block the resolution from passing in the first place. The dynamic is similar in the House, where Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi told The Associated Press this week that Democrats will back up Obama if he's forced to veto a disapproval resolution. "We will sustain the veto," she said. Doing so would require 146 Democrats. The number of publicly declared supporters neared 60 Thursday as Reps. Mike Honda of California and Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut came out in favor, with DeLauro declaring, "The best option for preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon is to support the agreement." □

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American home sales soar to fastest pace since early 2007

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans stepped up their home-buying for a third straight month in July, as sales accelerated to the strongest pace in eight years.

The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that sales of existing homes rose 2 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.59 million, the fastest rate since February 2007. Sales have jumped 9.6 percent over the past 12 months, while the number of listings has declined 4.7 percent.

Steady job growth and relatively low mortgage rates have convinced current homeowners to purchase homes, while first-time buyers remain scarce. The housing market contains a mere 4.8 months' supply of homes, meaning that prices are rising for an increasingly narrow set of properties. The slow six-year recovery from the Great Recession has finally revitalized the housing market. Home sales have soared in recent months, as more current homeowners have returned to the real estate market for an upgrade or to downsize as they approach retirement. Yet the upswing also reflects increasing problems with affordability that have left first-time buyer on the sidelines. "When first-time homebuyers compete with people who are more qualified borrowers that have additional cash, they tend to lose," said Budge Huskey, chief executive of the real estate brokerage Coldwell Banker.

The median home price climbed 5.6 percent over the past 12 months to

\$234,000. Just 28 percent of the purchases last month went to first-time homebuyers, a group that historically accounted for 40 percent of sales. A more balanced market would contain six months' of supply instead of less than five and provide potential homebuyers with a greater selection of homes.

Current homeowners with equity have been able to absorb some of that price appreciation as they've shopped for another home. But the recent sales explosion also reflects two critical factors: the economy adding a solid 2.9 million jobs over the past 12 months and the average, 30-year fixed mortgage rate staying around 4 percent. At roughly two percentage points below the historical level, mortgage rates have reduced



This photo shows a home for sale in Charlotte, N.C. National Association of Realtors released existing home sales for July 2015 on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

monthly borrowing costs for buyers.

Still, the trajectory of mortgage rates—and sales—going forward is unclear. It's possible that a weak-

ening global economy will cause more investors to buy U.S. Treasury bonds, a move that has historically held down mortgage rates. The average mortgage

rate has slipped slightly as China has endured stock market volatility and reduced the value of its currency.

Yet the Federal Reserve is preparing to raise a key interest rate for the first time in nearly a decade. Economists say the Fed could lift its fed funds rate from near-zero as soon as September, an increase that would potentially cause mortgage rates to rise. When Fed officials previously announced plans in 2013 to pull back on other forms of economic stimulus, mortgage rates suddenly spiked and derailed home sales for several months.

The July sales increase occurred in the South and West. Home purchases remained unchanged in the Midwest and slipped in the Northeast. □

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Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, left, speaks with Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos, during their meeting in Athens, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015. Tsipras announced his government's resignation and called early elections Thursday, seeking to consolidate his mandate to implement a new three-year international bailout that sparked a rebellion within his radical left Syriza party. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

Greek PM Tsipras resigns, calls elections

**ELENA BECATOROS
NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
Associated Press**

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras resigned Thursday and called early elections, hoping for a new, stronger mandate to implement a three-year bailout program that sparked a rebellion within his radical left party. In a televised address to the nation, Tsipras said his government had got the best deal possible for the country when it agreed to an 86 billion euro (\$95 billion) bailout from other eurozone countries. The rescue was all that kept Greece from a disastrous exit from the euro but came with strict terms to cut spending and raise taxes — the very measures Tsipras had pledged to fight when he won elections in January. His U-turn in accepting the demands by the country's creditors led to outrage

among hardliners in his Syriza party, with dozens voting against him during the bailout's ratification in parliament last week, which was approved thanks to support from opposition parties. Tsipras has insisted that although he disagrees with the conditions of the bailout terms, he had no choice but to accept and implement them to keep Greece in the euro, which the vast majority of Greeks want. With the country's finances now secured, Tsipras said he felt obliged to let the Greek people evaluate his work. "Now that this difficult cycle has ended ... I feel the deep moral and political obligation to set before your judgment everything I have done, both right and wrong, the achievements and the omissions," he said in the address. "The popular mandate I received on January 25 has exhausted

its limits." Greece's European creditors did not appear dismayed by Tsipras' move, which comes less than seven months into his four-year mandate. But Moody's credit rating agency warned in a statement that the snap elections "could elevate (bailout) program implementation concerns and, potentially, puts future (rescue loan) disbursements at risk." Tsipras formally submitted his resignation to the country's president, Prokopis Pavlopoulos, to begin the election process. This will involve letting the two main opposition parties — the conservative New Democracy and the Nazi-inspired Golden Dawn — try to form a government. Each party can spend up to three days trying to do so, and New Democracy leader Evangelos Meimarakis said he will use his available time. □

French far-right party excludes its founder Jean-Marie Le Pen

**ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press**

PARIS (AP) — Jean-Marie Le Pen, who co-founded France's far-right National Front, was excluded from his party on Thursday following a disciplinary hearing for belittling the Holocaust and insulting party leaders. He quickly said he would contest the move in court. The decision regarding a figure who has for decades been one of the mainstays of French politics came in a statement hours after the end of a three-hour hearing by the party's executive bureau. In the tribunal-like session, the 87-year-old Le Pen defended himself against a list of 15 complaints, all consisting of public statements considered a liability to the new image of the anti-immigration party. Party president Marine Le Pen, his daughter, has been trying for months to oust her father, who held the title of honorary president for life. A statement said the executive bureau "deliberated and decided ... the exclusion of Mr. Jean-Marie Le Pen as member of the National Front."

Le Pen said the decision by six members of the eight-member executive bureau was carried out by an "execution squad" on orders of his daughter and the party's No. 2, Florian Philippot, whom father Le Pen openly distrusts. Speaking to iTele TV station, Le Pen said he would "obviously" contest it. He also contended that his title of honorary president for life, conferred at a 2010 party congress, cannot be removed. Le Pen has won three recent court decisions in what began as a family feud and mushroomed into a debilitating party crisis as the National Front prepares for regional elections in December.

While Marine Le Pen signed off on the complaints — and personally summoned him to appear at the hearing — neither she nor Philippot was present. Philippot had said they preferred not to be both judges and accusers in what amounted to a trial.

Le Pen's lawyer, Frederic Joachim, called the decision a "political assassination." Visibly stunned, he was being interviewed on BFM-TV when the announcement was issued.

The party statement said that Le Pen would be notified "shortly" of the reasons behind the decision. The charismatic Le Pen, who has been convicted in French courts of racism and anti-Semitism, was long a thorn in the side of French politicians on both left and right before becoming what his daughter viewed as a handicap for the party as she scrubbed up its image to make the National Front a respectable political alternative. He made it to the final round of the 2002 presidential race, shocking France and the world. Le Pen named his daughter as his successor in 2010, and she has since chalked up electoral victories for the National Front, with polls suggesting she could become a leading contender in the French presidential race in 2017 — her ultimate goal. □

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Authorities give confusing statements in Bangkok bomb probe



A man prays at the Erawan Shrine, the site of Monday's deadly bombing, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, at Rajprasong intersection in Bangkok, Thailand. The central Bangkok shrine reopened Wednesday to the public. (AP Photo/Karly Domb Sadof)

N. ANUSONADISAI
J. GECKER

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai police said Thursday they have cleared two suspects in the bombing of a Bangkok shrine after one of them turned himself in and said he was a tour guide and the other was a Chinese tourist. National police spokesman Lt. Gen. Prawut Thavornsiri said the two men "were most likely not involved."

The two men were seen in a security video standing in front of the prime suspect as he removed a backpack and placed it on a bench at the crowded shrine shortly before the blast, and police had believed they were accomplices. Thai authorities have given confusing statements about the investigation, with a military spokesman saying on Thursday they believe the attack wasn't the work of international terrorists — a day after police issued an arrest warrant for the prime suspect that described him as a "foreign man."

Three days after the attack at a revered shrine in central Bangkok killed 20 people, authorities appeared to have few solid leads

into the perpetrators of the deadliest attack in Thailand's recent history. Police said they suspect the plot involved at least 10 people but described that figure as theoretical.

So far the firmest clue comes from the security camera footage. Time stamps on the video show the prime suspect, a young man in a yellow T-shirt, left the temple about 15 minutes before the explosion. Police on Wednesday issued an arrest warrant describing the suspect as a tall "foreign man" with a fair complexion, a prominent nose and thick lips.

In a televised statement Thursday, however, military spokesman Col. Winthai Suvaree cast doubt on an international connection.

"Security agencies have collaborated with intelligence agencies from allied countries and have come to the same preliminary conclusion that the incident is unlikely to be linked to international terrorism," Winthai said.

When contacted by telephone for clarification, he said that a link to global terrorism hadn't been ruled out. "We still have to investigate in more detail," he said.

Winthai also said on television that Chinese tourists, who were among the victims, were not the "direct target."

The Monday evening attack at the Erawan Shrine, a popular tourist site that is known to attract Chinese visitors, left 20 people dead and more than 120 injured. Four Chinese citizens were among the dead.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blast, sparking a variety of theo-

ries into who might be behind it. One is that the blast was a revenge attack related to Thailand's recent deportation to China of more than 100 Uighur Muslims, or that it could have been carried out by Islamist groups expanding their reach in Southeast Asia.

Other speculation points closer to home. Muslim separatists have been waging a low-level but deadly insurgency in south-

ern Thailand since 2004, leaving more than 5,000 people dead, but virtually all their attacks have been confined to the southernmost provinces. Though there has been little violence aimed at Thailand's coup, whose leaders have cracked down on dissent, the "Red Shirt" movement that supported the ousted elected government clashed with the military in 2010 protests that left about 90 people dead. □



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Massive IS Cairo car bomb underlines focus on state targets

BRIAN ROHAN
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A massive pre-dawn car bomb by Islamic State extremists blasted the facade off a police headquarters Thursday and rattled windows across Cairo — wounding 29 but causing no deaths.

The attack reflected a strategy of the group's branch in Egypt, which has targeted authorities but avoided spectacularly bloody civilian casualties — at least for now.

Two years of violence in a militant campaign has left hundreds dead in Egypt, mainly police and soldiers, and a string of attacks in the capital have undermined President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's claim to bring order to the country.

The main, Sinai-based militant organization, which swore allegiance to the Islamic State group last year, has shown worrying signs of the Iraq- and Syria-based extremists' notorious brutality — most notably, the beheading this month of a Croatian captive.

But its strategy also shows differences with the Islam-



An Egyptian worker checks a hole believed to be caused by the bombing in the street outside the national security building early Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, in the Shubra el-Kheima neighborhood of Cairo. A massive car bomb exploded early Thursday in a popular residential neighborhood in Cairo, blowing the facades off nearby buildings, Egyptian security officials said. (AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

ic State core, which has ruthlessly slaughtered civilians in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, including in suicide bombings in markets and mosques.

Thursday's attack in the Egyptian capital was the third time the group has carried out a large bomb-

ing at an hour when most people are asleep or off the streets — an apparent attempt to limit public outrage against the branch.

Its past similar attacks all led to few casualties or deaths, mostly among police. These include the dawn bombing of the Italian Embassy in Cairo last month, which killed one person; a huge truck bomb in January 2014 targeting Cairo's security headquarters, which killed four policemen; and a car bomb a month earlier that tore through a security headquarters in the Nile Delta city of Mansoura, killing 16 people, nearly all police-

men.

The first two of those attacks were claimed by Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, as the affiliate was called when it began targeting the government following the military's ouster of an Islamist president in 2013 — and before it pledged allegiance to the IS group last year.

"The style of the attacks are a little different than what we've come to expect from the IS group, as there is an absence of mass casualties when it comes to urban areas," said H.A. Hellyer, a security expert at the Brookings Institute think tank in Washington. "That may be attributed to

its recruitment strategies, but we can't assume that it won't change tactics going forward."

The differences are likely rooted in two factors. Egypt is overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim with a Christian minority of around 10 percent, and has virtually no population of Shiite Muslims, the community that IS mainly targets in its worst mass attacks elsewhere.

Also, the Egyptian branch is a homegrown group whose original name, Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, means Champions of Jerusalem. It stepped up its insurgency in revenge for a police crackdown on Islamists following the military's 2013 ouster of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi. Its homegrown status likely makes it more attentive to local sentiment.

Thursday's blast, which went off just before 2 a.m., fits the group's pattern of attacks. It demolished a wall in front of the security building, bringing down watch towers and leaving gaping holes exposing its offices. Of those hurt, 11 were police and soldiers.

Authorities said high-powered explosives were used in the blast, which was heard and felt across the city, damaging nearby schools and court buildings. It also shattered colored glass windows and cracked the walls of a nearby palace built by Muhammad Ali, an early 19th-century ruler of Egypt. □



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Israeli army:

4 rockets from Syria hit Israel; no injuries

IAN DEITCH
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Militants in Syria fired several rockets into northern Israel on Thursday afternoon, prompting Israeli retaliatory fire, the military said — the first time since the 1973 Mideast war that rockets from Syrian territory have slammed into Israel.

A total of four rockets exploded in an open field in northern Galilee, where sirens warned residents of the incoming projectiles. The rockets sparked small

fires but caused no injuries. The Israeli military said it responded to the attack by targeting 14 Syrian military posts in the Golan Heights, the strategic plateau that Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. Despite constant hostility between the two countries, Syria's leaders have been careful to keep the border mostly quiet since the 1973 war, though Syria's conflict has renewed tensions in the Golan Heights. Israel's military said the rockets were fired by the Iran-backed

Islamic Jihad group. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Israel also said it holds the Syrian government responsible for attacks emanating from Syria. Sporadic mortar shells and gunfire have hit Israel on several occasions since the Syrian conflict broke out in 2011, but this was the first time rockets were used. In southern Syria, an opposition activist said Israeli tanks fired at least four shells at Syrian army and pro-government positions. □



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Venezuelan leader sends more troops to Colombia border



Smugglers cross the Tachira River carrying Venezuela gasoline into Colombia, in Cucuta, at the Colombian border with Venezuela. President Nicolas Maduro has ordered the closure of a major border crossing with Colombia after three soldiers were attacked while looking for smugglers. Maduro late Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015, said the normally busy border in western Tachira state would remain closed for 72 hours.

(AP Photo/William Fernando Martinez)

JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has ordered the temporary closure of a major border crossing with Colombia and said Thursday he would bolster military forces there following

an attack on three soldiers who were looking for smugglers. Maduro announced in a national broadcast that he would "raise the presence of state forces to the maximum" in response to the shooting of two lieutenants and a captain by people

who fled on motorcycles. The president earlier announced a 72-hour closure of a normally busy crossing in western Tachira state, and vowed to mount a special mission to boost protection for Venezuelans living along the 1,400 mile (2,200-kilometer) border.

The area has long been plagued by violence stemming from Colombia's long-running conflict, the presence of drug-trafficking gangs and now by smugglers of cheap goods from Venezuela. "We have reached the limit of the aggression by armed groups, of the speculators and smugglers," Maduro said, referring to people who buy scarce, essential goods that are heavily subsidized by the government and then sell them for inflated prices across the border. He also complained of a mass migration of more than 120,000 of Colombians into Venezuela this year and said he would seek international aid for a humanitarian plan to cope

with them. Closure of the border was announced Wednesday night during a phone call to a state TV program hosted by National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello, came hours after the attack of three army officers while they were carrying out patrols in the border town of San Antonio. "They were ambushed by two motorcyclists that we're now looking for, even underneath the rocks," said Maduro. As part of a government crackdown against contraband, the government already this year has closed the border in Tachira at night, deployed more troops and toughened jail sentences for smuggling. □

Dominican Republic: Slaying of Haitian man being investigated

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Police in the Dominican Republic were trying Thursday to determine if the slaying of a Haitian man in a border region was connected to a protest against migrants in the area. The unidentified man was found stabbed to death along the side of a road near Hatillo Palma, where hours earlier a group of people had burst into a shantytown to protest the alleged rape of a local woman by three Haitian migrants during a robbery. Later, a home where about 20 people lived was destroyed by a fire that was intentionally set.

Police Lt. Col. Pablo Ortega said authorities have not confirmed that the killing and the protests were connected. He said six people had been detained for questioning about the death as well as for the attacks on the migrant community. Authorities increased security in the area seeking to prevent further violence. Hatillo Palma is in an agricultural border region where migrants from neighboring Haiti make up much of the labor force. It was the scene of similar violence in 2005, when people in the town destroyed homes and forced migrants to flee as retribution for the killing

of a Dominican woman, allegedly at the hands of migrants. The most recent violence takes place amid increased tension over migration on the island of Hispaniola. The Dominican Republic recently began deporting Haitians following the expiration of a deadline to apply for legal residency. The government estimates about 524,000 migrants are in the country, most of them from neighboring Haiti. It has said nearly 290,000 applied for residency, with most still waiting to learn whether they met the qualifications. Officials say about 66,000 chose to return to Haiti. □

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Hollywood-style funeral for alleged mobster outrages Rome

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Romans aghast at a spiraling mafia probe found new reason for outrage Thursday over the Hollywood-style funeral of a purported local crime boss: It was replete with a gilded, horse-drawn carriage, flower petals tossed from a helicopter and the theme music from "The Godfather" playing outside the church.

Hundreds of tearful mourners paid their final respects to Vittorio Casamonica, 65, at the San Giovanni Bosco church on Rome's outskirts. Police identified him as a leader of the Casamonica clan active in the south-west part of the capital but said he was "on the margins" of organized crime and hadn't emerged as a suspect in recent mafia investigations.

"You conquered Rome, now you'll conquer paradise," read a banner affixed to the entrance of the church. "King of Rome," read another, featuring Casamonica's image, the Colosseum and St. Peter's Basilica.

Mayor Ignazio Marino called Rome's prefect demanding to know how such a scene could have taken place and tweeted that it

funeral was celebrated normally, the ANSA news agency reported. Lawmakers expressed outrage at the scene, which

mourners tossing bouquets of flowers as the casket was carried into the church. At a certain point, a low-flying helicopter dropped red rose petals on the crowd below.

The funeral came just a day after a judge set Nov. 5 as the start date for the trial of some 59 people charged in a spiraling mafia investigation in the capital, in which local criminal bosses allegedly managed to cement ties with city politicians over lucrative public contracts. Rosy Bindi, president of the parliamentary anti-mafia commission, said it was "alarming" that a funeral for someone purportedly caught up in the mob could be "transformed into an ostentatious show of mafia power."

She said it was proof that the mafia had firmly infiltrated Rome and called for a redoubling of efforts to rout it from public administration.

Rome's corruption has long thrived on the connivance of city politicians, administrators and local gangsters, who have no formal ties to the traditional southern

crime syndicates. A prosecutor famed for combating Sicily's Cosa Nostra has been enlisted to help root out City Hall corruption. The Mafia-fighter was enlisted following dozens of arrests since late last year of city politicians and businessmen with links to the political right and left.

On Thursday, several commentators noted the irony that a reported mob boss was allowed an elaborate funeral at the church while the Archdiocese of Rome refused to allow a funeral at the same church in 2006 for Piergiorgio Welby, then the symbol of Italy's right-to-die movement.

Welby, who had muscular dystrophy and was unable to eat, speak or breathe on his own, got his wish to die in December 2006 when a doctor disconnected his respirator.

His case split the overwhelmingly Catholic nation but the local church defended its decision to deny him a Catholic funeral, arguing that allowing it would have legitimized attitudes contrary to God's law. □



A banner showing purported mafia boss Vittorio Casamonica and reading "King of Rome" hangs from the facade of the Don Bosco church in Rome, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015. Romans aghast at a spiraling mafia probe have found new reason for alarm with the Hollywood-style funeral of a purported crime boss, replete with gilded horse-drawn carriage, flower petals tossed from a helicopter and the theme music from "The Godfather."

(Massimo Percossi/ANSA via AP)

was "intolerable that funerals are used by the living to send mafia messages."

The parish priest, the Rev. Giancarlo Manieri, said he had no control over what happened outside the church and that inside, the

played out on TV newscasts all afternoon and evening: Six black horses pulling an antique, black-and-gold carriage to a stop in front of the church as a band played the soulful tunes of "The Godfather," and

Men claim to find Nazi train loaded with treasure in Poland

VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — According to Polish lore, a Nazi train loaded with gold, artworks and weapons vanished into a mountain at the end of World War II, as the Germans fled the Soviet advance. Now two men claim they know the location of the mystery train and are demanding 10 percent of its value in exchange for revealing its location.

Historians say the existence of the train has never been conclusively proven, but authorities are not passing up this chance at possibly recovering treasures that locals and the government have sought for 70 years.

"We believe that a train has been found. We are taking this information seriously," Marika Tokarska, an official in the southwestern Polish district of Walbrzych, told The Associated Press



This picture shows the Książ Castle in Poland. During World War II, Adolf Hitler began to build a system of long tunnels underneath the castle. According to Polish lore, a Nazi train loaded with gold, and weapons vanished into the mountain at the end of World War II, as the Germans fled the Soviet advance.

(AP Photo/str)

on Thursday.

She said her office received two letters this month from a law firm representing the men, a Pole and a German who have chosen to remain anonymous, saying they are seeking 10 per-

cent of the value of the train's contents for revealing its location. The documents from the lawyers say the train is 150-meters (490-feet) long and loaded with guns, valuables and precious metals, but do not

specify where it is. Authorities say they are willing to pay the reward if the information pans out.

A lawyer for the men, Jaroslaw Chmielewski, compared the find to the "wreck of the Titanic" in an interview on a local radio station.

Tokarska said that hiring a law firm gives a degree of credibility to the two men's claims, as do indications that they are familiar with the train's contents. But there are also reasons for caution: The first letter included some references to the area's topography that indicated they might not know the area very well.

Joanna Lamparska, an author who has written about the train and the region's history, says she believes it could be a scam.

"We have had a lot of stories like that in the last few years with people claiming they know where the train

is," Lamparska told The AP. "But nothing was ever found."

Local stories say a German train left from the German city of Breslau (today the Polish city of Wroclaw) in April 1945 and headed westward toward Waldenburg (now Walbrzych.) At some point in the 60-kilometer (40-mile) journey it vanished.

During the war, Adolf Hitler had started creating a secret underground system in the area under the Owl Mountains, a project called "Riese," or "Giant." The region still belonged to Germany at the time and the project included seven separate tunnel systems. Lamparska describes the area as one filled with meadows and mountains where the Nazis had secret rail lines and tunnels with camouflaged openings that went under the mountains. □



Aruba's Premiere Residential Community: Gold Coast Enters Exciting Final Phase of Development



vision translated itself into a beautiful neighborhood, populated by a satisfied and growing customer base, enhance by a sterling reputation among financial institutions. Cas Bon NV was already popular in the local market delivering affordable housing when it ventured into the condo and villa market with its locally financed Gold Coast project on Malmokweg, and remarkably throughout the many phases of construc-

tion, it remained true to the original Mediterranean and Caribbean architectural master-plan, with spacious two level homes, and upscale condos, delivering on all its promises for attractive amenities, from picturesque plazas and fountains

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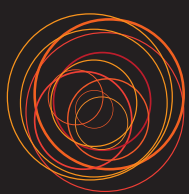
MALMOK - When Gold Coast broke ground in the mid 90s, local developers, Cas Bon NV., expressed their desire to make it into the premiere residential community on the island. They envisioned finely designed high quality homes and infrastructure, and later on, past the construction phase, providing high quality services compatible with five star resorts, as homes and condos become occupied.

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to lush landscaping. Now in its final phase of construction Gold Coast is offering a not-to-be missed opportunity with only a few lots available suitable for the construction of homes, and only a few 2/3 bedroom condos for sale in its inventory. The development, now over 80% sold out, is inviting investors to

tigious Malmok, just blocks away from the scenic Northwest Coastline and the Island's most beautiful sandy white beaches and crystal waters. For quality, design, style, security and convenience, the address is Gold Coast, and hurry up as the development just recently entered its final phase. □



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Celebrity Chef Ruth Van Waerebeek Joining Iron Chef Aruba Judging Panel

ORANJESTAD – The much-anticipated Iron Chef Aruba competition produced by Island Temptations magazine and being held on October 8th during the Aruba Tourism Authority's first annual Restaurant Week, will be judged by hospitality professionals, including celebrity chef Ruth Van Waerebeek.

The dynamic Belgium chef is the author of several critically acclaimed cookbooks, and has been featured in Gourmet and Food & Wine magazines. For the past 15 years, Chef Ruth has been the brand ambassador and house chef for Chile's famed Concha y Toro Winery, representing the vineyard at major company events in Europe, the United States, Asia, and Latin America. The chef also oversees the Mapuyampay Hostal Gastronomico & Cooking School in Chile's wine country.

This year's Iron Chef Aruba will take place at The Alhambra Ballroom on Thursday, October 8th. The competition will feature three of Aruba's top chefs vying for the title won two years

ago by Chef Urvin Croes from White Modern Cuisine and The Kitchen Table by White. In addition, three of Aruba's best bartenders go head-to-head in the Bartenders Brawl, being held during the cocktail hour preceding the live, onstage chef competition that will have a challenging mystery basket component.

Guests attending Island Temptations' Iron Chef Aruba will enjoy sampling cocktails from the Bartenders Brawl prior to dinner, followed by a gourmet four-course dinner paired with wine from Aruba's leading spirit distributors, Romar Trading, PepiaEst, and Arion Wine Company.

Foodies and wine lovers mark your calendars! Seating is limited for this finale event of Restaurant Week. Iron-Chef Aruba is graciously sponsored by the Aruba Tourism Authority, Divi Resorts, Alhambra Casino & Shops, ASD Aruba Hotel & Restaurant, Equipment Supplies, Romar Trading, Arion Wine Company, PepiaEst, U.S. Meat Export Federation, DJ Vibe, and Caribbean Overseas. □



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PALM BEACH - During the third annual Restaurant Week the chefs of the restaurants of the Aruba Wine And Dine (AWD) group are on their toes. They have come up with tantalizing menus to tempt new and repeat guests and they introduce interesting and mouthwatering dishes for an amazingly low price for

a three-course menu. You are in luck when you have accumulated 1000 Fun Miles, as dinner will then set you back even less!

Today the spotlight is on Hadicurari, the fab fish restaurant on the pier between the Holiday Inn Resort and the Marriott Ocean Club. Dining can

be done with your feet in the sand: a terrific sensation. During the Restaurant Week, which runs from August 26 until September 2, Hadicurari will treat you to a tantalizing dinner with a choice between ceviche or beef carpaccio, mahi mahi with grilled shrimp or surf and turf, filet mignon served with the catch of the day. The main course is served with the potato of

the day and fresh, steamed vegetables. Dessert is either a flan or profiteroles. All of the above for just one unbelievably reasonable price.

The fish has just been caught in the ocean and brought in, so they can't be fresher than this at Hadicurari. The chef loves to prepare the fish so that its unique flavor caresses your palate. Together with his

culturally diverse kitchen team hailing from Venezuela, Aruba, Colombia and Holland, he will see to it that your dinner will be truly excellent.

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Share your top insights, best practices and accolades with your fellow CHTA Members!

ORANJESTAD - The CHTA September newsletter will be the "The Education Issue". Our September issue will focus on professional development and continuing education in the hospitality and tourism industry. Share trends, success stories and challenges in keeping your most valuable assets, your staff, up-to-date, motivated and trained.

Due Date: Monday, September 7, 2015

Criteria for Newsletter Articles:

--Articles must be educational in nature, not promotional. No company information or boiler plates should be added to your article.

--Articles must provide insight into a topic related to the topic of the month, to the Caribbean or a country within the Caribbean, and the tourism & hospitality industry.

--Maximum 300 words

ready for distribution (reviewed and edited)

--Article to be provided in an editable Word document format.

--One image is encouraged with the following specifications: maximum width 554px, jpeg format, and a file size larger than 100kb, but less than 1MB.

--We will be accepting a total of five articles for this newsletter. Articles will be selected in order of submission (first come, first serve).

--This is an exclusive benefit for CHTA Members.

All articles received will be reviewed to ensure they meet the outlined criteria. Members will be advised two days after the deadline date, if their articles will be added to the newsletter. Email your articles to adriana@caribbeanhotelandtourism.com with the subject "September Newsletter Contribution". □



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Weekly Special on Repeat Races:

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ORANJESTAD - Many have discovered the place for the ultimate thrill while on vacation, which is Bushiri Karting Speedway, a great outdoor Go karting Track with fast rental Go karts available for anyone to rent.

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that anyone can have fun and enjoy with the whole family. A place where children and grownups can enjoy a little speed & fun on vacation! it will definitely make your vacation an unforgettable one! Rac-

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More info: www.bushirikarting.com or look for us on Tripadvisor. □



Tim Duncan arrives for a news conference to be presented with the the 2014-15 Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year NBA Basketball Award at the team's practice facility, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015, in San Antonio. Duncan chose to not pose with his trophy. Associated Press

Tim Duncan named NBA's top teammate

RAUL DOMINGUEZ
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tim Duncan has given up millions in salary to give the San Antonio Spurs the cap space needed to re-sign teammates and add players such as LaMarcus Aldridge.

And Duncan has deferred offensively to teammates like Tony Parker and Kawhi Leonard despite averaging 19.5 points over his 18-year career.

He has made those sacrifices, both financial and statistical, in pursuit of championships, not individual awards. But the NBA gave him one anyway. Duncan's peers awarded him the Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year award on Wednesday. In its third year, the award is voted upon by players from a candidate pool selected by past NBA stars.

"I know how to be the way I am because of people that came before me," Duncan said.

Continued on Page 19

BRAUNY



Braun hits Brewers' record 252nd homer

Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun follows through on a home run against the Miami Marlins during the sixth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015, in Milwaukee. Braun became the franchise's all-time home-run leader.

Associated Press
Page



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Djokovic rallies to win at Cincy; Serena Williams wins too

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Novak Djokovic smacked his racket on the court after losing serve, seemingly headed for another unexplainable loss at a tournament that has eluded him. In the end, he stopped fuming and started playing like the best.

The top-ranked Serb rallied from a 3-0 deficit in the final set to a 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 victory over David Goffin on Thursday, reaching the quarterfinals of the Western & Southern Open. Serena Williams also advanced while losing only two games in her match.

Djokovic has never won Cincinnati. He's trying to become the first player to win all nine ATP Masters events in a career.

"It was a solid first set, but whatever happened in the next 45 minutes — I don't want to remember it," Djokovic said. "I wasn't on the court. You know, I just lost the intensity and concentration. Luckily for me, I managed to bounce back, dig myself out of this hole I was in."

With things falling apart in the second set, Djokovic slammed his racket three times, drawing a warning. And it kept getting worse against Goffin, a 24-year-old Belgian who is 1-20 against top-10 players. Finally, Djokovic pulled himself together and pulled it out.



Serena Williams, of the United States, chases the ball during a match against Karin Knapp, of Italy, at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

"I will try to take the positive out of this match, and the positive is the last six games of the match," he said.

Djokovic will face fifth-seeded Stan Wawrinka, who beat him for the French Open title. Wawrinka pulled out a 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5) win after Ivo Karlovic double-faulted on match point, his second serve hitting the top of the net. Also, No. 6 Tomas Berdych beat

Tommy Robredo 6-0, 6-1 to reach the quarterfinals. He'll face qualifier Alexandr Dolgoplov, who beat Jerzy Janowicz 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 win over Jerzy Janowicz.

On the women's side, Williams needed only 54 minutes to beat Karin Knapp 6-0, 6-2. She lost just 12 points while winning the first nine games.

Williams, the defending Cincinnati champion, is using

the tournament as a final tuneup for the U.S. Open, where she'll try to complete a calendar Grand Slam sweep. Her quarterfinals opponent is Ana Ivanovic, who beat Sloane Stephens 2-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Williams beat Ivanovic in straight sets to win her first Cincinnati title last year.

"It will be a really good match for me and kind of test where I am, you know, just in general," Williams said. "Yeah, so I look forward to that."

A right forearm injury forced Swiss teen Belinda Bencic to withdraw after she dropped the first set against seventh-seeded Lucie Safarova. The 12th-seeded Bencic said she didn't think the injury was very serious, but it was too

soon to know if she could play in next week's tournament at New Haven, Connecticut.

"I wasn't 100 percent, and to beat Lucie or even compete against her, you have to be 100 percent," she said. "I didn't want to retire. This was the first I've ever had to retire. I hope it gets better."

The 18-year-old said her forearm has been sore for some time.

"Every match, it was getting tighter and tighter," she said. "I was hoping that a lot of (therapy) would help, but I couldn't do it." Bencic was coming off the biggest moment of her brief career. She upset Williams in the semifinals at Toronto last week and went on to win the tournament. □



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Top Teammate

Continued from Page 17

"The people I was able to be teammates with, be around, watch them operate, watch them work, watch them as teammates (and) watch them accept the role. All those things are big pieces in what I am today and who I am today. So a lot of credit goes to them as well."

Duncan received 72 first-place votes. Vince Carter of the Memphis Grizzlies finished second and Atlanta's Elton Brand finished third.

Spurs center David Robinson accepted a lesser role with the team early in Duncan's rookie season after San Antonio made the 6-foot-11 forward the No. 1 pick in the 1997 draft.

The lessons the Hall of Fame center imparted that season have resounded with the entire organization, Duncan in particular. Duncan's scoring and defense have helped the Spurs to five NBA championships. But it has been the 39-year-old's willingness to

accept contracts far below the maximum value he could earn that has helped San Antonio maintain a roster which has made 18 straight postseason appearances.

"Tim's contributed to our success in so many ways for so long," Spurs general manager R.C. Buford said. "I know people continue to point it out, and it needs to be pointed out, the support and what he's allowed us to do, but this is nothing new."

Despite being arguably the team's best overall player last season, Duncan is taking a \$5 million pay cut this season so the team had the resources necessary to re-sign Leonard and Danny Green and bring in Aldridge, a prized free agent.

Those moves helped convince David West to walk away from a \$12.6 million player option with the Indiana Pacers to sign a \$1.5 million offer from the Spurs. "I'm excited to get to know him because of that and other reasons," Duncan said. "People talk very



San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan attends a news conference after he received the 2014-15 Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year NBA Basketball Award at the team's practice facility, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

highly of him. A lot of guys who have been teammates over the years with him have a lot of great things to say about him. Obviously, talent wise, he's a great addition. He's a tough body.

He's a veteran player that knows how to play the game.

All those things you add them the right way, it's

going to be an incredible plus for us." West's addition along with and the return of Parker, Manu Ginobili, Leonard, Green and Boris Diaw have made the Spurs a strong contender to win their sixth championship. Duncan said he has worked out twice with Aldridge in the past week.

"Obviously we've added talent, and that's wonder-

ful," Duncan said. "We're going to have to work them in, have them figure out how to play with us and for us to play with them. It will be a process. Pop's excited about it, I'm definitely excited about it, I know the guys coming in are excited. It's great to be in a situation where we have a chance (to win an NBA title) again." □

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Woods opens Wyndham with his best round in 2 years

JOEDY MCCREARY

AP Sports Writer

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) —

Tiger Woods kept saying his game was getting better, even though his results didn't show it.

On his first day at the Wyndham Championship, his score finally did.

Woods had his best round in more than two years Thursday, shooting a 6-under 64. Two-time heart transplant recipient Erik Compton, William McGirt and Tom Hoge shared the first-round lead at 62.

Morgan Hoffman, Jim Herman and Derek Ernst followed at 63, and Martin Kaymer, Davis Love III and Carl Pettersson joined Woods at 64.

It was Woods' lowest score on the PGA Tour since a 61 in the second round of the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational in 2013.

He and the others took advantage of a low-scoring day at what he called a "tricky" Donald Ross-designed course at Sedgefield Country Club that gave up bunches of birdies after morning showers softened the fairways and greens.

"When it's like this," Woods said, "you've got to throw darts and go low."

And while Compton and McGirt threatened the tournament record, the clear story of the day was Woods. That low score couldn't have come at a better time for the biggest name in the sport.

He set the tone by holing a 54-foot chip shot on his first hole, the par-4 10th, for the first of his seven birdies.

"Finally," he said, "I got something out of my round." Woods arrived insisting he was playing better than his recent results might indicate.

He had missed the cut in three straight majors and

had not finished better than a tie for 17th at the Masters. He's at No. 187 on the FedEx Cup points list and probably needs a win to move into the top 125 and earn a playoff spot.

Yet he said after last week's early exit from the PGA Championship that those

8 feet from the cup and rolled in.

"I went for the shot, and instead of playing something more conservative, the greens were hard and fast, and I wanted to play something long," Woods said. "I got aggressive with it, and I went for it, and I pulled it off.

his tour card in 2012 — four years after his second heart transplant.

He's chasing his first victory, and so is McGirt, who finished in a tie for eighth here last year. At No. 86 on the points list, McGirt is in virtually no danger of missing the playoffs.

ing with more than Billy Hurley III.

Hurley's first round came two days after he attended the funeral of his father, who died last week of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The 33-year-old Hurley is at No. 131 on the points list and is only here this week



Tiger Woods reacts after holing out a chip shot on the 10th hole during the first round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015.

Associated Press

results belied the improvement he was making in his game.

"I know it's crazy to say, but I wasn't playing that poorly at PGA," Woods said. "Any borderline shot (at Whistling Straits) I never got away with it, and that's the way it goes. I felt like I was hitting the ball good enough and just kept progressing, and today was just a continuation of it."

Especially on that first hole. His shot from the left side of the green landed about

... I could see it going in." Hoge, playing in the day's final grouping, made a late charge up the leaderboard, closing his round with a 5-foot birdie putt on the 18th.

Compton, who started on the back nine, finished with a 29 on the front nine with seven birdies in that span. "Any time you can break 30 in nine holes, you're obviously doing something really cool," Compton said.

It's the latest positive for a 35-year-old who earned

Compton — who's closer to the cutoff at No. 114 — is just trying not to lose any ground.

Meanwhile, for the others closer to the postseason bubble, things are a little more stressful.

Ernst, who's at No. 178 and is playing in the final tournament of the 2-year exemption he earned for his lone victory — at the Wells Fargo Championship in 2013 — shot the best round of his four-year career.

But perhaps nobody's deal-

because he's trying to secure his PGA Tour card for next year.

"It wasn't really a hard decision" to play, Hurley said, "but it's certainly hard to do." He said he nearly felt overwhelmed on the putting green, "almost didn't know what I was doing in some ways" during his first handful of holes, then "scrambled my way around" the back nine.

By the end of his 69, Hurley said he "felt like almost a golfer again." □

Froome aims to add Vuelta to Tour title



In this July 24, 2015, file photo, Britain's Chris Froome, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, grimaces as he crosses the finish line of the 19th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 138 kilometers (85.7 miles) with start in Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne and finish in La Toussuire, France.

JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Chris Froome will be racing both for and against history when the Spanish Vuelta starts Saturday.

The Tour de France champion is aiming to become the third cyclist to win both the Tour and the Vuelta in the same season, after Jacques Anquetil (1963) and Bernard Hinault (1978). However Froome will need to improve on his past Vuelta performances, which yielded two runner-up finishes.

The 30-year-old Froome established himself as a rising talent in 2011 when he finished second behind winner Juanjo Cobo as a teammate of Bradley Wiggins, the Sky team's then leader. Last year, he was beaten only by Alberto Contador, who will not attempt to defend his title after winning the Giro d'Italia and tiring at the Tour this summer.

Froome also will be battling fatigue from the Tour that finished less than a month ago. But the Kenyan-born Froome, who appears to handle even the intense Mediterranean heat better than most of the home-

grown riders, will have the major psychological advantage built upon his dominant display at the French race, where he obliterated the field during an early mountain stage at La Pierre-Saint-Martin in the Pyrenees near the Spanish border.

"I have great memories from this race so I'm pleased to be back," Froome said. "I've had a good rest after the Tour and now I'm ready for my next challenge."

THE QUIET MAN

Froome is not the only rider eager to remove the label of second best.

Nairo Quintana has finished second behind Froome in both of the Briton's Tour wins— at 1 minute, 12 seconds behind this summer— making the Colombian climbing expert the leading candidate to challenge Froome at the Vuelta.

Quintana was also among the favorites entering last year's Vuelta, but a pair of crashes knocked him out of the race with a broken shoulder.

With the 2014 Giro title, Quintana has already proven to be among the very best with his impassive

demeanor and always-in-control uphill pace. But to beat Froome, he may have to find an explosive edge and take more risks. THE OTHER CANDIDATES Vincenzo Nibali will be eager to bounce back from a Tour that saw the Italian finish in fourth place, but more than 8 minutes off Froome's pace.

Nibali won the Vuelta in 2010 before also claiming the Giro in 2013 and the Tour in 2014.

Another former winner, Alejandro Valverde, will join Movistar alongside Quintana, while American Tejay van Garderen will be back after withdrawing from the Tour because of a respiratory infection.

NEW HEIGHTS

The 70th edition of the Vuelta again favors strong climbers with 13 hilly or mountainous stages and nine summit finishes that are all completely new to the race.

Beginning with Saturday's team time trial in the coastal town of Puerto Banus, the first 10 stages will be in the southern part of the peninsula.

The race then turns more mountainous as it heads north to the Pyrenees prin-

cipality of Andorra. The final week is designed to be the most demanding. Stages 14, 15 and 16 have consecutive summit finishes at Alto Campoo, Sotres and Ermita de Alba. "Most of the race's main difficulties will be at the north of Spain and Andorra, while a different kind of hardness will be found in Andalusia," said Movistar team director Eusebio Un-

zue. "Everyone could feel the high temperatures we suffered for a whole week last year, and that will surely add some wear and tear."

The individual time trial in Burgos could also shake up the standings on stage 17 before a penultimate stage of four category-one climbs ahead of the ceremonial arrival to Madrid on Sept. 13. □

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SAT 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
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FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:30 | 12:05
SAT 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:30 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:30

MILES TELLER | KATE MARA

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FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:30 | 12:05
SAT 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:30 | 12:05
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NL Capsules

Braun becomes Brewers' homer leader in 8-7 win over Marlins

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Ryan Braun became the Brewers' career home run leader with his 252nd home run and Khris Davis hit two home runs to help Milwaukee avoid a sweep with an 8-7 victory over the Miami Marlins on Wednesday.

Braun hit a 2-1 pitch from former Brewers starter Chris Narveson to lead off the sixth. Braun broke the tie with Hall of Famer Robin Yount with a blast off the railing of the second deck in right.

Davis teed off on the first pitch from Marlins starter Tom Koehler (8-11) in the second for a two-run homer and then did it again in the third to tie the game at 5-5 with a three-run homer. It was his fourth multi-homer game this season and fifth of his career.

Martin Maldonado put Milwaukee 7-6 ahead with a two-run single off Koehler. One batter later, Narveson relieved with the bases loaded, one out and stranded the three runners. Willy Peralta (4-7) picked up the win.

PADRES 3, BRAVES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Yangeris Solarte drove in two runs, and Tyson Ross pitched six solid innings as the Padres beat the Braves to complete a three-game sweep.

Solarte, who had three hits, homered in the sixth and added a run-scoring double in the seventh.

In the seventh, Melvin Upton Jr. singled off Matt Marksberry (0-2), stole second and advanced to third on Clint Barmes' ground-out. Austin Hedges followed with a double to left-center field, scoring Upton for a 2-1 lead.

Ross pitched six innings, allowing a run on six hits. He walked three and struck out five.

Shawn Kelley (2-2) got the win after striking out the side in the seventh. Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 35th save in 37 chances. Atlanta's Julio Teheran allowed a run and struck out seven over six innings.

It was only the Padres' second three-game sweep of the season.

PHILLIES 7, BLUE JAYS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Rookie Aaron Altherr homered, doubled and drove in three runs and Adam Morgan pitched seven strong innings for Philadelphia.

Jeff Francoeur and Andres Blanco also homered for Philadelphia, which snapped a four-game losing streak.

Chase Utley was not in the starting lineup but was in uniform in the Phillies dugout. The Dodgers and Phila-



Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun watches a home run against the Miami Marlins during the sixth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015, in Milwaukee. Braun became the franchise's all-time home-run leader.

Associated Press

delphia announced a deal after the game that had the six-time All-Star second baseman going to Dodgers for two minor leaguers.

Edwin Encarnacion homered for the wild-card leading Blue Jays, who fell two games behind the first-place New York Yankees in the AL East. Toronto lost for just the fourth time in its last 20 games.

Mark Buehrle (13-6) had his shortest outing of the season, giving up four runs and seven hits in four innings.

Morgan (4-4) surrendered two runs and five hits while striking out three without a walk in seven innings.

Ken Giles pitched a scoreless ninth for his eighth save in 11 chances.

PIRATES 4, DIAMONDBACKS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — J.A. Happ allowed two hits in six shutout innings for Pittsburgh.

Happ (5-7), acquired at the trade deadline from Seattle, struck out three and walked two to earn his first

National League victory in more than three years. Sean Rodriguez had three hits and an RBI for the Pirates. Starling Marte added two hits and Gregory Polanco chipped in an RBI single off Robbie Ray (3-9). Mark Melancon struck out three straight batters in the ninth for his 38th save. Pittsburgh improved to 16-3 against teams from the NL West and is 57-31 since May 9, the best record in the majors.

Paul Goldschmidt had an RBI single in the ninth for Arizona but A.J. Pollock, Jarrod Saltalamacchia and David Peralta whiffed against Melancon while representing the tying run.

The Pirates needed 15 innings to shake the Diamondbacks in a 5-hour, 11-minute marathon on Tuesday night.

CARDINALS 4, GIANTS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Yadier Molina's 100th career home run in the bottom of the eighth inning snapped a tie for St. Louis.

Molina added an RBI single in the first and rookie Stephen Piscotty homered in the third for St. Louis, which took two of three from the NL West-contending Giants. The Cardinals are 77-43 overall and 46-19 at home, both tops in the majors. □



New York Yankees pitcher Nathan Eovaldi delivers against the Minnesota Twins during the first inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rookie Greg Bird hit a pair of soaring two-run drives for his first major league homers, sup-

porting an overpowering effort by Nathan Eovaldi and leading the Yankees to a victory over the Twins for a three-game sweep.

AL Capsules

Bird has 2, 2-run home runs for Yankees in 4-3 win over Twins

Eovaldi (13-2) did not allow a baserunner until Chris Hermann singled with one out in the sixth. Topping 100 mph on the scoreboard radar a handful of times, Eovaldi was touched for three runs in the inning when he lost command of his secondary pitches.

In seven electric innings, Eovaldi gave up four hits and struck out eight. He walked three in improving to 8-0 in his last 11 starts since June 20.

Dellin Betances pitched a

perfect ninth for his eighth save — first since July 1 — for the AL East leaders, winners of six of seven.

Called up from Triple-A on Thursday, Bird has been in the lineup since replacing Mark Teixeira on the field Monday night after the switch-hitter fouled a ball off his right shin. He connected twice off Ervin Santana (2-4), who fell to 0-8 in his last 11 starts against New York.

ANGELS 1, WHITE SOX 0
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) —

Jered Weaver pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning, and Carlos Perez homered in the Angels' third straight victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Weaver (5-9) earned his first victory since May 30, striking out five without a walk in his third start back from a seven-week injury absence. The Angels' longtime ace showed command and deception that made up for his velocity, and eventually left to a standing ovation. □

Tech Tips: Stuff you didn't know you could do on Facebook

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Did you know you can add a pronunciation guide to your name on Facebook? Overlay colorful text on the photos you post? How about mark the end of a relationship without your 500 closest friends getting notified?

Many of these tips and tricks aren't well known, even to veterans of the 1.5 billion-strong people-connector and time-waster. Facebook is constantly updating its service, adding new features or tweaking old ones. A lot can slip through the cracks even if you are scrolling through your friends' updates several times a day.

Here are a few ways to enhance your Facebook experience:

HOW DO YOU SAY THAT?

More than 83 percent of Facebook's users are outside of the U.S. and Canada, and they use over 80 languages to communicate with friends and family. That's a lot of people, and a lot of different ways to say your name.

To add a pronunciation guide, go to the "about" section of your profile and click on "details about you," (called "more about you" on mobile) then "name pronunciation." Here, Facebook will offer suggestions for your first and last name that you can listen to before selecting. If none work, you can also type in your own phonetic pronouncer.

ONE-TIME PASSWORD

Logging in from a public computer? If you don't feel comfortable typing in your password on a shared machine that might have malicious software, Facebook lets you request a temporary one by texting "otp" to 32665. You'll get an eight-character passcode that works for the next 20 minutes and cannot be reused.

UNSUBSCRIBE

Anyone who's commented on a popular Face-



This June 11, 2014 file photo shows Facebook's "like" symbol at the entrance to the company's campus in Menlo Park, Calif. Facebook is constantly updating its service, adding new features or tweaking old ones, and a lot of stuff can slip through the cracks even if you are scrolling through your friends' updates several times a day.

Associated Press

book post, or belongs to a particularly chatty group, knows that those notifications telling you that "Jane Doe and 4 others also commented on a post" can get a bit annoying.

You can turn off notifications for individual posts by clicking on the globe icon on the top right corner of your Web browser, then on the "X" next to the individual notification. You can also change your notification settings here to get fewer or more of them for each group that you belong to.

To do this on mobile, click to view the original post, then click the down arrow in the top right corner of the post. You'll see an option to "turn off notifications."

KEEP IT ON THE DOWN-LOW

Announcing engagements and marriages on Facebook is fun. Post and watch the likes and congrats roll in. Bask in the love and glory. Fast-forward a few years for some couples, and the glory fades, not to mention the love and marriage. In this case, you might not want to announce the irreversible breakdown to 450 of your closest friends.

Thankfully, you can still mark the end of a relationship without notifying everyone. Go to your profile and click on the "about" section, then "family and relationships on the left." Under relationship, you'll see a gray icon that probably says "friends," or maybe

"public." Change it to "only me." Then change your relationship status. After a while, you can change it back if you wish. Your hundreds of acquaintances will be none the wiser, unless they are stalking your profile to see if you are single.

PICTURE PERFECT

Thanks to a popular but little-known new feature, Facebook lets you spruce up the photos you post by adding text and quirky stickers, such as drawings of scuba gear, sunglasses or a corn dog.

This tool is available on iPhones and is coming soon to Android devices. To use it, choose a photo to upload and click the magic wand icon. Here, you'll find

text overlay options as well as the same stickers you can use in other parts of Facebook.

SECURITY CHECK

Another recent addition to Facebook's trove of tools is a "security checkup" that guides users through a checklist aimed at making their account more secure. This includes logging out of Facebook on Web browsers and apps they are not using, and receiving alerts when someone tries to log in to their account from an unfamiliar device or browser. To use it, go to <https://www.facebook.com/help/securitycheckup> on your computer — this feature is not yet available on the mobile app. □

Gartner says smartphone sales growth slows

NEW YORK (AP) — World-wide sales of smartphones in the second quarter grew at the slowest pace since 2013 as sales in China declined for the first time, according to research firm Gartner Inc.

Gartner said Thursday that smartphone sales grew

13.5 percent to 330 million units in the second quarter compared with a year earlier. While demand continues to increase in emerging markets, Gartner says overall smartphone sales were mixed. Smartphone sales in China fell 4 percent year-over-year — the first

such decline for the world's most populous country and biggest market for smartphones.

China accounted for 30 percent of total smartphone sales in the second quarter. But Gartner says it has reached saturation, as its phone market is driven

by replacement purchases instead of first-time buyers. Samsung "premium" phones continued to be challenged by Apple's large-screen iPhones during the quarter, Gartner said. Samsung lost market share while Apple gained some. □

STREET BRIEFS

Gartner Inc. says smartphone sales growth is slowing

NEW YORK (AP) — A prominent research firm says worldwide sales of smartphones in the second quarter grew at the slowest pace since 2013 as sales in China declined for the first time. Gartner Inc. said Thursday that smartphone sales grew 13.5 percent to 330 million units in the second quarter compared with a year earlier. While demand continues to increase in emerging markets, Gartner says overall smartphone sales were mixed. Smartphone sales in China fell 4 percent year-over-year — the first such decline for the world's most populous country and biggest market for smartphones. China accounted for 30 percent of total smartphone sales in the second quarter. But Gartner says it has reached saturation, as its phone market is driven by replacement purchases instead of first-time buyers. □

New York tabloid owner says paper is off the market

NEW YORK (AP) — Mort Zuckerman, the owner of the New York Daily News, says the tabloid is no longer up for sale. In an internal memo that was sent Thursday to The Associated Press, Zuckerman says that after meeting with "several potential interested and well-intentioned suitors," he's withdrawing the paper from the market. He had said in February that he had been approached by a potential buyer. The newspaper industry has been hit with declines in print circulation and ad revenue as media websites, including those without a print business, gain readers. Online ad sales have increased for newspaper companies, but not enough to offset the decline in print revenue, according to a Pew Research Center report. □

Stock market endures worst day in 18 months

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. stock market endured its worst performance in 18 months on Thursday, driven lower by another slump in Chinese shares and heavy

ally got slammed overnight and that quickly spread to the rest of the world," said J.J. Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade.

The Dow plunged 358.04 points, or 2.1 percent, to 16,990.69. The S&P 500 lost

4.5 percent from its record close of 2,130.82 on May 21.

As the selling picked up, investors moved money to traditional havens in times of uncertainty.

Gold rose \$25.30, or 2.2

3.4 percent. Chinese shares have had a wild ride this week and that has raised uncertainty about Beijing's ability to stabilize the market and its surprising devaluation of its currency.

That devaluation has caused other countries to devalue their own currencies, notably the oil-rich country of Kazakhstan and the Southeast Asian manufacturing center of Vietnam.

Strategists and traders, noting the lack of major U.S. economic news on Thursday, said the heavy selling of stocks was also likely tied to programmed selling after the S&P 500 moved below one of the most closely watched indicators, its 200-day moving average.

While many investors pick and choose stocks based on a company's business outlook, there is an entirely different class of trader who relies on such technical indicators to make investment decisions.

"I see this drop as likely because we crossed the 200-day moving average, and that's causing us to have further selling," said Scott Wren, chief global equity strategist at the Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Media stocks were hit particularly hard. Walt Disney shares fell \$6.43, or 6 percent, to \$100.02.

Analysts are concerned that viewers are choosing to move away from cable, which could hurt lucrative Disney properties such as ESPN.

Viacom, owner of CBS, fell 6 percent as well and Twenty-First Century Fox fell 4 percent. □



Trader Michael Milano works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015. The U.S. stock market endured its worst performance in 18 months on Thursday, driven lower by another slump in Chinese shares and heavy selling by technical traders.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

selling by technical traders. The global rout started in China, where sharp declines in energy and property stocks pushed the Shanghai Composite down more than 3 percent. That selling soon spread to European and U.S. markets, where the Standard & Poor's 500 index moved further below a closely watched trading level. Investors, facing screens full of red, retreated to their usual places of safety: bonds, gold and cash. "The emerging markets re-

43.88 points, or 2.1 percent, to 2,035.73 and the Nasdaq composite lost 141.56 points, or 2.8 percent, to 4,877.49.

It was the biggest percentage decline for the Dow and S&P 500 since February 2014. The blue-chip average is now at its lowest level since October 2014.

Buyers of stocks were few and far between. Selling outweighed buying by a ratio of more than eight to one in heavy trading. Still, even with the steep sell-off, the S&P 500 is down just

percent, to \$1,153.20 an ounce, the metal's best day since April. Demand for ultra-safe U.S. government bonds rose, pulling down the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note to 2.07 percent from 2.13 late Wednesday. The bond was trading at a yield of 2.19 percent only two days before, and the decline since is major move.

Worries over China, the world's second-largest economy, spurred Thursday's losses. The Shanghai Composite Index dropped

Qantas records \$409M profit after \$2.6B loss

SYDNEY (AP) — Qantas Airways Ltd. posted a 557 million Australian dollar (\$409 million) full-year profit on Thursday in a dramatic turnaround since it recorded a \$2.6 billion loss in the previous year.

Australia's largest airline said in a statement that the profit for the fiscal year through June reflected strong performances from

all business segments, including its troubled international arm which turned a AU\$408 million loss in 2014 into a AU\$267 million profit. "We are halfway through the biggest and fastest transformation in our history," Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce said in a statement.

"Without that transformation, we would not be re-

porting this strong profit," he said. Qantas has not declared a dividend but will return AU\$505 million to shareholders through a AU23 cent per share cash distribution in November. The airline's underlying pre-tax profit for the year was AU\$975 million, better than analysts' expectations of a AU\$960 million profit.

Qantas also announced it

will take delivery of eight Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft from 2017 to replace five older Boeing 747s, which have shorter ranges and are less fuel efficient. Last year's record loss included an AU\$2.6 billion write down of the value of its aging international fleet. Qantas also last year began reducing costs by shedding 5,000 jobs. □

Gap maintains forecast as second quarter profit falls

NEW YORK (AP) — Gap is keeping its fiscal-year profit forecast unchanged after further struggles in the second quarter marked by weakness at its namesake and Banana Republic stores that offset rising sales at Old Navy. The San Francisco company also said Thursday its plan to close 175 Gap stores in North America, as well as some locations in Europe, will cost a bit less than it expected.

During the quarter, the company said it would close some Gap locations as it tries to strengthen the brand, with most of the closures coming by the end of January. It closed 26 of those stores over the three months that ended on Aug. 1 and opened six more. The company will also eliminate 250 positions at its headquarters. Gap now expects \$130 million to \$140 million in charges con-

nected to those moves, down from an estimate of \$140 million to \$160 million. Gap Inc. said it expects to earn between \$2.75 and \$2.80 per share for the year. Analysts expect \$2.74 per share on average, according to FactSet. The San Francisco company said its net income fell 34 percent on costs related to the store closings, shipping delays on the West Coast, and the strong U.S.

dollar. Its overall sales fell 2 percent, with Old Navy remaining the bright spot. Gap said it earned \$219 million, or 52 cents per share. It said its net income totaled 64 cents per share if costs related to the store closings are excluded. Its revenue decreased 2 percent to \$3.9 billion. The results were in line with estimates Gap made last week. Gap was a big hit with a generation of khaki

pants-wearers but it's struggled to keep up with design trends in recent years. The company and some of its competitors have lost ground to "fast fashion" chains that refresh their stores with the latest styles more often. The company's shares have fallen about 22 percent over the last year. The stock slipped 3 cents to \$33.63 in extended trading following the release of the earnings report. □

Valeant to spend about \$1B on maker of women's libido drug

**MATTHEW PERRONE
TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writers**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Valeant Pharmaceuticals will pay about \$1 billion in cash to buy Sprout Pharmaceuticals, the maker of the first prescription drug intended to boost sexual desire in women.

The deal comes two days after U.S. regulators approved the pill Addyi, a milestone for the drug industry that could revive interest in medications for women's sexual problems. Founded by a husband-and-wife team, Sprout has aggressively pushed the case for their product for years, arguing in dozens of interviews that the Food and Drug Administration had unfairly overlooked women's sexual disorders. But the company gave no hint of plans to sell the drug to a larger company.

"After all their talk about women's health disparities,

it's time for Sprout's founders to just take the money and run," said Erik Gordon, a business professor at the University of Michigan. Sprout CEO Cindy Whitehead responded Thursday that she would continue to lead Sprout,

which will become a division of Valeant. "I'm not going anywhere and am very excited to continue working with our 34 employees," Whitehead said in a statement.

Gordon and some other analysts predicted the buyout, noting that Sprout had only a few dozen employees in its Raleigh offices. Gordon said Valeant has the size and expertise to market the new pill. "Valeant is not a drug development company, they are a drug marketing company," said Gordon. "They are famous for buying a company, closing down their research and flogging the product."



Sprout Pharmaceuticals CEO Cindy Whitehead holds a bottle for the female sex-drive drug Addyi at her Raleigh, N.C. office. Valeant Pharmaceuticals will pay about \$1 billion to buy Sprout Pharmaceuticals. The deal, announced Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, comes one day after regulators approved Addyi. Valeant expects the Sprout pill, Addyi, to be available in the United States in the fourth quarter.

(AP Photo/Allen G. Breed)

The Canadian drugmaker has traditionally grown through acquisitions of companies in the dermatology, eye health and

neurology fields. The Sprout purchase expands Valeant's portfolio into women's health. A Valeant spokesman re-

sponded that the company has launched more than 20 products in the last year, the majority of which came from its own labs. □

Regulators sue 2 firms making loans against pensions

**MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal and New York regulators have sued two companies that make loans against retirees' pensions, saying they deceived consumers about the high rates of the loans.

Regulators say that the companies, Pension Funding LLC and Pension Income LLC, used deceptive marketing tactics to target the pensions of seniors and military personnel. The U.S.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and New York state's Department of Financial Services filed the lawsuit against the companies in federal court in Santa Ana, California.

They say the companies tricked consumers into borrowing against their pensions by portraying the deals as sales instead of loans, and failing to disclose high interest rates and fees.

The business of so-called pension advance loans,

which grew during the recession, has been under scrutiny by regulators in recent years. Targeting seniors hit hard during the economic downturn, the schemes can drive retirees deeper into debt, regulators say.

"We are working to put a stop to the illegal practices these companies are using to sell their bogus product to military veterans and other pensioners," CFPB Director Richard Cordray said in a statement.

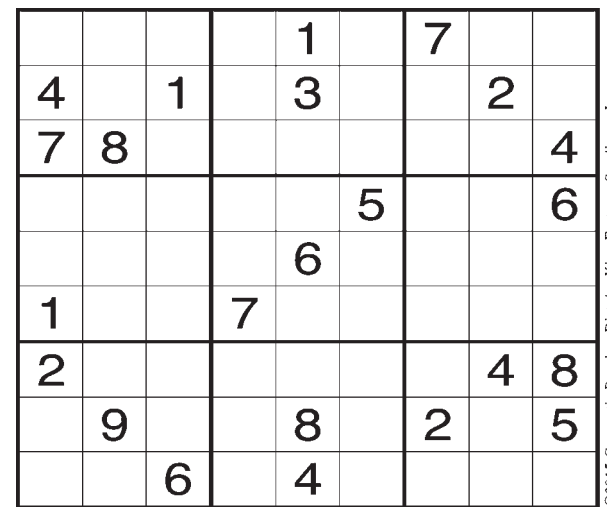
Pension Funding is based in Huntington Beach, California. Pension Income was based in Huntington Beach but relocated to Lafayette, California, according to the suit.

Attempts to reach the companies and the three managers also named in the suit for comment were unsuccessful. A number listed for Pension Funding was disconnected, and a listing for Pension Income couldn't be found.

The suit alleges that the

companies violated the 2010 law overhauling financial regulation after the financial crisis by misrepresenting the products as sales rather than loans, and failing to disclose high rates and fees for the loans. In some cases, the promoters implied to consumers that they could face criminal prosecution if they stopped making payments, the suit said. The regulators are seeking unspecified fines and restitution against the companies. □

Conceptis Sudoku



8/21

4	9	1	6	7	3	5	2	8
7	2	6	5	1	8	9	4	3
3	5	8	2	9	4	1	7	6
8	7	2	9	4	1	6	3	5
6	4	9	7	3	5	8	1	2
5	1	3	8	2	6	4	9	7
1	8	4	3	6	2	7	5	9
9	3	5	4	8	7	2	6	1
2	6	7	1	5	9	3	8	4

8/21 www.beniaepstein.com

I MISS THE OLD DAYS... BEFORE HACKING.

B. Epstein Six Chix © 2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc. © 2015 Benia Epstein

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BOSS, IS THE RUMOR ABOUT TWITCHELL TRUE?

WELL, I DID FIRE HIM, BUT I WAS IN A BAD MOOD

NO PROBLEM THEN...JUST REHIRE HIM BEFORE HE CLEARS OUT HIS DESK!

YES, I SUPPOSE I COULD DO THAT...

BUT I'M IN A MUCH BETTER MOOD NOW!

8-21

PROFESSOR,
I RAN OUT OF
ROUND PANS,
DO YOU MIND
IF THESE
PIES ARE
SQUARED?

$R = \text{RADIUS}$ $[R^2 - C^4] + \text{CIRCLE}$ $(RT = CM)$ CIRCUMFERENCE
 $360^\circ \frac{C10}{107} - D_{2H}$ DIAMETER ENVC $\left(\frac{D}{F} = \frac{1}{10} \frac{dE}{2H} \sqrt{RR} = \text{YES} \right)$
 $V_a = FA \sqrt{V_L}$ $360 E = 2EN$ $\frac{3 \times 10^3}{25^2 \sqrt{VP}} \frac{\text{NO}}{\text{AVRN}} = \frac{\text{MOL}}{\text{DT}}$
 $dB \times \frac{V}{14} \sqrt{3Nn^2}$ $\frac{WC}{W} = \frac{W}{N}$ $C = \frac{VW}{11}$
 $3.14 \downarrow$ $\frac{105}{2\pi K}$ -10^2 $\frac{Kad}{dx}$
 $\frac{PE}{da}$ $J = 3Nk$ $\frac{1}{2} N^2 \sqrt{2\pi K}$
 $0.5 - L (4^2 + L^2)$ $(djL^2) + \text{CIRCLE}$

Mike Peluso

OKAY, THEN. I'LL MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH AN ORTHODONTIST NEXT MONTH.

WHY DID I JUST FEEL MY WALLET VIBRATE?

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JEREMY!
YOU'RE LATE
FOR WORK!

GAAAH!

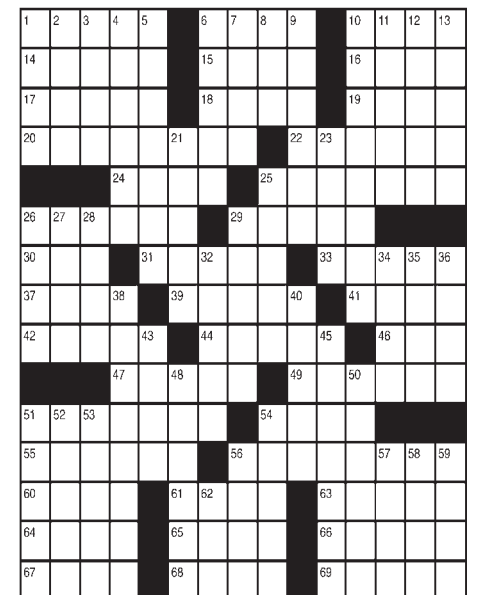
THERE'S NOTHING
WORSE THAN
HAVING A JOB
NIGHTMARE...

JEREMY!
YOU'RE LATE
FOR WORK!

...EXCEPT
LIVING
ONE.

SCOTT AND BRYAN

1 Bet
6 Phony; false
10 Skating rink
14 In the know
15 Greek letter
16 Taxi cost
17 Part of USNA
18 Leaves
19 Turn over
20 Vision
22 Jack or Swiss
24 Longoria and
Mendes
25 The __ Sisters;
R & B singers
26 "Messiah"
composer
29 Carried
30 Canada's
neighbor: abbr.
31 Department
store chain
33 SeaWorld
performers
37 Baseball sticks
39 Skirt edge



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

R/21/15

4	Wiped away	C	L	A	B	A	P	A	R	T	A	D	O	S
5	Plays over in one's mind	B	O	V	E	R	O	D	E	O	B	O	I	L
6	Audible breaths	D	O	E	S	E	D	D	I	E	A	R	L	O
7	Owl's comment	E	N	S	I	G	N	S	G	Y	M	N	A	S
8	Consumed			D	O	A	K	N	E	A	D			
9	The San Diego Chicken or the Phillie Phanatic	A	S	S	E	T	M	I	S	L	O	A	D	S
		C	A	P	S	H	E	N	D	E	N	Z	E	L
10	Miffed	H	U	E		M	E	A	S	L	E	S	T	A
11	Car parker at a fancy hotel	E	C	L	A	I	R	M	A	C	W	E	L	D
		S	E	L	L	S		M	A	P	P	A	C	T
12	Get up			B	E	G	A	N	C	A	D			
13	Biblical outcast	E	L	D	E	R	L	Y	M	E	D	D	L	E
21	Storm and Sayers	T	I	E	R	A	H	E	A	D	L	U	R	E
		C	E	N	T	Z	E	B	R	A	E	A	R	S
23	Rushes	H	U	T	S		E	M	B	E	R	D	U	S

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8/21/15

38 Bask	53 Noisy kiss
40 Arrange	54 Rental car
43 Three___ sloth	agency
45 Yacht race	56 Out of danger
48 Animals	57 Qualified
50 Soap opera	58 Wedding cake
51 Traditional	section
nun's attire	59 Orient
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baths, 24 hour security, gated,
washer/dryer luxury furnishing s
sleeps 4, 34 left on contract
steps to affinity pool/bar \$5250
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Rent \$1200
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Week	room	price
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26	543	\$5,300
40	105	\$5000
48/49	119	\$4,500
23	343	\$3,000
35	314	\$4,000
30	515	\$4,900
30	311	\$5,000
23	343	\$4,500
27	103	\$4,000
29	134	\$4,500
20&21	347	\$4,500
27	341	\$4,000

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200
vr.realty@mac.com

203548

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Feeling the heat: Earth in July was hottest month on record

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Earth just keeps getting hotter. July was the planet's warmest month on record, smashing old marks, U.S. weather officials said. And it's almost a dead certain lock that this year will beat last year as the warmest year on record, they said.

July's average temperature was 61.86 degrees Fahrenheit (16.6 Celsius), beating the previous global mark set in 1998 and 2010 by about one-seventh of a degree, according to figures released Thursday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That's a large margin for weather records, with previous monthly heat records broken by a 20th of a degree or less.

"It just reaffirms what we already know: that the Earth is warming," said NOAA climate scientist Jake Crouch. "The warming is accelerating and we're really seeing it this year." NOAA records go back to 1880. Separate calcu-



In this July 3, 2015 file photo, a person walks past a store shelf filled with fans in Marseille, southern France, where the temperature rose to 89.6 Fahrenheit.

Associated Press

lations by NASA and the Japanese weather agency also found July 2015 to be a record.

The first seven months of 2015 were the hottest January-to-July span on record, according to NOAA. The seven-month average temperature of 58.43 de-

grees (14.7 Celsius) is 1.53 degrees warmer than the 20th-century average and a sixth of a degree warmer than the old record set in 2010.

Given that the temperatures have already been so high already — especially the oceans, which are slow

to cool — NOAA climate scientist Jessica Blunden said she is "99 percent certain" that 2015 will be the hottest on record for the globe. The oceans would have to cool dramatically to prevent it, and they are trending warmer, not cooler, she said.

Crouch, Blunden and other scientists outside of the government said these temperatures are caused by a combination of man-made climate change and a strong, near-record El Nino. An El Nino is a warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean that alters weather worldwide for about a year.

The oceans drove the globe to record levels. Not only were the world's

oceans the warmest they've been in July, but they were 1.35 degrees warmer than the 20th-century average.

The heat hit hard in much of Europe and the Middle East. It was the hottest July on record in Austria, where records go back to 1767. Parts of France had temperatures that were on average 7 degrees above normal and temperatures broke 100 in the Netherlands, which is a rarity. And an Iranian city had a heat index (the "feels like" temperature) of 165 degrees (74 Celsius), which was still not quite record.

Nine of the 10 hottest months on record have happened since 2005, according to NOAA. Twenty-two of the 25 hottest months on record have occurred after the year 2000. The other three were in 1998 and 1997.

This shows that despite what climate change doubters say, there is no pause in warming since 1998, Blunden said.

It doesn't matter if a month or a year is No. 1 or No. 2 or No. 5 hottest on record, said University of Georgia climate scientist Marshall Shepherd.

"The records are getting attention but I worry the public will grow weary of reports of new records each month," Shepherd said in an email. "I am more concerned about how the Earth is starting to respond to the changes and the implications for my children." □

Mexico finds 'main' skull rack at Aztec temple complex

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican archaeologists believe they have found the main trophy rack of sacrificed human skulls at Mexico City's Templo Mayor Aztec ruin site. Racks known as "tzompantli" were where Aztecs displayed the severed heads of sacrificial victims on wooden poles pushed through the sides of the skull.

But archaeologists at Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History said Thursday that this one was different. Part of the platform where the heads were displayed was made of rows of skulls mortared together roughly in a circle. All the skulls were arranged to look inward toward the center of the circle, but experts don't know what was at the center.

The find was made between February and June under the floor of a colonial-era house in downtown Mexico City. □



In this May 30, 2015 photo released by Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), skulls are partially unearthed at the Templo Mayor Aztec ruin site in Mexico City. Associated Press



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H.P. Lovecraft fans mark author's 125th birthday in Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Fans of author H.P. Lovecraft are marking his 125th birthday with a four-day festival and conference in his hometown of Providence, Rhode Island. The NecronomiCon (NEH'-kroh-NOM'-ih-kon) begins Thursday with an opening ceremony at the First Baptist Church in America. Other events include a birthday party with music and movies in downtown Providence. Lovecraft was born on Aug.

20, 1890. He lived most of his life in Providence and died penniless in 1937. Decades later, fans put up a gravestone that bears the words "I am Providence." His stories often featured Providence or other New England towns. Lovecraft's work was known as "cosmic horror." It has been an influence on other horror and science-fiction writers such as Stephen King, movies such as "Alien" and bands including Metallica. □

Aretha Franklin wants to open Detroit entertainment venue



In this Nov. 13, 2014 file photo, Aretha Franklin performs in concert at The Patricia and Arthur Model Performing Arts Center at The Lyric in Baltimore.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Aretha Franklin says she wants to open a Detroit entertainment venue that would include a nightclub and fine dining. The Queen of Soul tells WWJ-AM (<http://cbsloc.al/1LmQoJD>) in an interview broadcast Thursday that she's "glad that Detroit came through the bankruptcy with flying colors." She says she loves how Detroit is enjoying a renaissance and that she's "going to be part of that renaissance."

The singer says the venue would include "a five-star night club for dining and dancing, the band, the whole nine yards," as well as a museum. Downtown Detroit has been a hotbed of redevelopment since the city emerged from Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection in December. Franklin says she's found a potential location downtown, with details to be announced later. She performs Saturday at Detroit's Chene Park. □

Reality star Josh Duggar admits to cheating on his wife



In this Aug. 29, 2014, file photo, Josh Duggar, executive director of FRC Action, speaks in favor of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act at the Arkansas state Capitol in Little Rock, Ark.

Associated Press

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Calling himself "the biggest hypocrite ever," ex-reality star Josh Duggar has apologized for a "secret addiction" to pornography and for cheating on his wife. "While espousing faith and family values, I have secretly over the last several years been viewing pornography on the internet and this became a secret addiction and I became unfaithful to my wife," he said in a statement posted on the family's website Thursday.

The statement was later edited to remove the reference to pornography and a reference to an earlier scandal in which Duggar molested four of his sisters and a baby sitter.

The statement was apparently spurred by Duggar's name appearing among millions exposed in a data breach of customers of the Ashley Madison website, an online service that caters to people looking to cheat on their spouses. Leaked data showed that a Josh Duggar whose address was the same as the reality TV star was a member of AshleyMadison.com from December 2012 to

October 2014.

In his statement, Duggar did not address whether he had used AshleyMadison.com, nor did he detail the exact nature of his marital infidelity. A family representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the statement or the revisions. The 27-year-old Duggar's admission comes several weeks after the molestation scandal first broke. Those revelations led to the cancellation of "19 Kids and Counting," the hit TLC reality show on which he appeared with his 18 siblings and his parents. The series ran from 2008 through its 10th-season conclusion in May.

"I am so ashamed of the double life that I have been living and am grieved for the hurt, pain and disgrace my sin has caused my wife and family, and most of all Jesus and all those who profess faith in Him," Duggar said in his statement.

The TLC series had chronicled the wholesome home life of Arkansas couple Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar and their now-19 children. The network plans to air a documentary focusing on child sexual abuse on Aug.

30; two of the sisters who were molested will appear. But in May, Josh, their eldest child, apologized for unspecified bad behavior on a Facebook post and resigned from the Family Research Council, a conservative Christian group, where he had worked as a lobbyist.

Two weeks later, the Duggar parents were interviewed on Fox News Channel, as were two of their daughters, Jill and Jessa, who said they weren't aware the fondling had happened until Josh confessed years later and their parents told them about it. "The last few years, while publicly stating I was fighting against immorality in our country, I was hiding my own personal failings," stated Duggar, who in his website testament sought the public's forgiveness and their prayers "for my precious wife Anna and our family during this time." The couple's fourth child, a daughter, was born a month ago.

In an accompanying statement on the family's website, Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar said, "When we learned of this late last night our hearts were broken." □

Television networks looking back at Katrina

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC's Robin Roberts and Fox News Channel's Shepard Smith, who anchor specials this weekend about the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's devastating Gulf Coast landfall, both had reasons to avoid the topic.

Mississippi native Roberts reported on the hurricane in 2005 while living through a harrowing few hours not knowing whether her mother and sister had survived. Smith was the point person for a network with many viewers who did not want to believe that government mismanagement had cost people their lives. "The stories that are told 10 years later of what happened to people are very worthwhile," Smith said. "It's just very hard."

Fox News begins the television remembrances Friday at 10 p.m. EDT with "Hurricane Katrina, Storm of a Lifetime." ABC's "Katrina: 10 Years After the Storm" airs Sunday at 10 p.m.

Fox's chief news anchor was among many reporters who didn't hide his anger at a failure to get help to survivors quickly after the storm, for which the Bush administration was widely criticized. Smith said he received thousands of emails from annoyed Fox viewers and expects to get more with the story be-

ing revisited.

"Should we have not become emotional because so many people were upset that we became emotional on Day 4 of watching babies and old people die?" he said. "I suggest that those people who

that they would not."

Smith also has ties to the region but, unlike Roberts, didn't return for Fox's Friday special. Fox's show includes recollections from survivors and government officials, including former FEMA head Michael Brown

in Katrina?" he asked. "I don't want to remember it, because what we did was we failed as a society. That's what we did. All of our leaders failed."

As the title alludes, ABC's special is more about rebirth than recollections.

and destroyed the business. She has rebuilt it.

Their stories of resilience make the special more relatable to viewers who may not have been through a tragedy like Katrina but go through their own hard times, Roberts said.

"It's an unfolding story, and I talk about that," she said. "Locals want to memorialize people who lost their lives, and they want people to see the progress. But they also want people to see that it's still a work in progress. How long did it take to rebuild the Freedom Tower?"

Brugger hadn't told her chilling story publicly before, and Roberts played a home court advantage to help get the interview. She's from Pass Christian, too.

That didn't feel like an edge a decade ago. Roberts began crying on "Good Morning America" when Charles Gibson asked about her family, who couldn't be tracked down at the time. Her mother and sister were safe, although storm damage displaced them for a year.

Roberts revisits the story Sunday, in part because viewers frequently ask about it, but very briefly. They are tough memories, compounded by her mother's death at age 88 in August 2012. □



In this image released by Fox News Channel, chief news anchor and managing editor of the news division Shepard Smith on the FOX News deck in New York. Smith will anchor a special this weekend about the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Fox News begins the television remembrances Friday at 10 p.m. EDT with "Hurricane Katrina, Storm of a Lifetime."

Associated Press

were upset because we showed our emotions in watching babies and old people die that they put themselves in a situation where they watch babies and old people die, and then give 'em a call in 10 years and see if they want to f---ing remember it. I would venture to guess

and Andrew Card, chief of staff to President George W. Bush.

Smith said he believed that a decision was made early in the disaster not to save some people in need, although he did not accuse anyone specifically.

"Do I want people to remember what happened

The stories of two women provide the centerpiece. Syrena Johnson, plucked from the roof of her New Orleans home after Katrina when she was 15, returned and is working as a chef. Diane Brugger owned a Pass Christian, Mississippi, inn and survived the flood that killed her husband



In this March 2, 2011 file photo, actor Mickey Rooney waves on Capitol Hill in Washington, prior to testifying about elder abuse, before the Senate Aging Committee. Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge accepted Mickey Rooney's will Thursday and approved an attorney to administer the estate

after several of the actor's children dropped their objections.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Cowan ap-

Objections to Mickey Rooney's will dropped; administrator approved

pointed attorney Michael Augustine to oversee the "Andy Hardy" star's estate, which includes some of the star's memorabilia and other modest assets.

Rooney died in April 2014, and his will disinherited his biological children. His stepson and caretaker, Mark Aber, will receive some of the proceeds of the estate.

"We are deeply gratified that Mr. Rooney's final wishes have been ratified and that his legacy will be honored by those Mr.

Rooney selected," Augustine's attorney, Bruce S. Ross, wrote in a statement. I know that he would have been pleased with the outcome."

Several of Rooney's biological children objected to the will, which was signed just weeks before the actor's death at age 93. Those objections were dropped, clearing the way for Augustine's formal appointment.

Despite a show business career spanning more than 80 years, Rooney

said he had lost most of his fortune because of elder abuse and financial mismanagement by another one of his stepsons.

The actor's estate was valued at \$18,000 in early 2014.

The star of the "Andy Hardy" films and Hollywood's highest paid actor in the late 1930s and early 1940s, Rooney was a product of the industry's old studio system and was not entitled to hefty royalty payments, Augustine said shortly after Rooney's death. □

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